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SUBJECT Gearmata Airfield

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1. The ~~airport~~ airport was constructed in 1942. A civil pilots' school used it until summer 1944. In summer 1944 it was used, for a short period of time, as a transit stop by the German air force. After Rumania's capitulation the Germans were obliged to abandon the airport. In their retreat they burned a two-engine plane and a Klemm - 35 plane. The airport was in the service of the Soviet fighter air force from autumn 1944 until autumn 1947. During the months of May and Jun 1948 a wooden hangar, a wooden barracks and an underground gasoline depot were built on the airport. The airport was then given to the Civilian Sport Air Force. This occurred 23 Aug 48, and the airport was given the name "Teoharie Georgescu". Next, the airport was used by the glider school of Timisoara. By Nov 1948, the school had licensed 24 glider pilots, class B. Some of them entered the military air force subsequently. Between Nov 1948 and summer 1949, the airport was closed. Reopened in summer 1949, the airport served as training airport for glider pilots of the B and C classes. The same is true for the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953. Each year the number of licensed pilots has increased. Lately the school has been able to license up to 300 pilots every year.
2. The airport is located 9 kilometers northeast of the center of Timisoara and approximately 2 kilometers south of the Gearmata village. It is east of the Timisoara-Radna railroad.
3. The airport's ground is flat and covered with grass. Its altitude is 80 meters above sea level. The airport is surrounded by tillable grounds and by vineyards. It has too little natural drainage and therefore cannot be used in rainy weather or during winter time.

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4. The airport is square, each side a 1000 meters in length. It is parallel to the Timisoara-Radna railroad.
5. There are two wooden hangars [See Enclosure (A)] and a wooden shack 25 by 8 meters in dimensions as well as an underground gasoline tank. The hangars are 30 by 15 meters. The airport has no concrete runways and is entirely covered with grass. The prevailing wind is northeast - southwest, which is also the landing direction.
6. The gliders used there are Icar. The training gliders are Grunau-Baby and performing gliders are Grunau-Special. Yak fighter planes also were stationed at the airport during the maneuvers which took place in the Timisoara area, in autumn 1951. In the event of war, the airport provides enough space for a fighter or an attack air force regiment. After Teoharie Georgescu's purge from the Communist party, the airport's name was changed to "Gheorghiu Dej"; the same name was given to the glider school.

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ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch of Geamata Airport
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